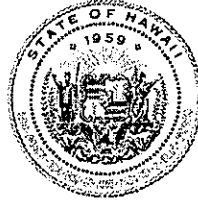


TESTIMONY
SCR160

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Monday, March 22, 2010
3:15 PM
Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 160
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
APPROVE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL
SERVICES TO PLAN AND IMPLEMENT THE LEGISLATURE'S PROPOSAL
TO REPLACE THE REFLECTING PONDS SURROUNDING THE STATE
CAPITOL WITH A GARDEN OF NATIVE PLANTS**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 160 requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) and the Department of Accounting and General Services to plan and implement the Legislature's proposal to replace the reflecting ponds surrounding the State Capitol with a garden of native plants. The Department takes no position on this concurrent resolution, but notes that an effect determination cannot be made at this time without a design. In as much, the Department offers the following preliminary comment recommending the legislature take into consideration the potential effect on the Capitol design.

Replacing the reflecting ponds with plants may have an "adverse effect" on the State Capitol design since the ponds are meant to symbolize the ocean surrounding our islands. However, the Department's State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) understands that the ponds are a long-standing and costly problem that needs to be solved. Mitigation for the "adverse effect to a historic property" may be possible through thoughtful design of the garden. For example, landscaping using cargo plants brought over the ocean by Native Hawaiians, in combination with interpretive materials that explain the history and connection with ocean travel, may continue the symbolism of the ocean, despite having a garden instead of reflecting ponds.

While the Department notes that a garden has the potential to have an "adverse effect to a historic property", we cannot provide a determination until a design has been determined. The

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AQUATIC RESOURCES
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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAIHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

department also notes that the cost of the design, landscaping and accompanying interpretive materials are not included in the budget and likely will not be available for several years. The Department defers to the Department of Accounting and General Services whether the project is feasible given the State's fiscal situation.

HISTORIC HAWAII FOUNDATION

VIA WEB: www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony

To: Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair
Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

From: Kiersten Faulkner
Executive Director, Historic Hawai'i Foundation

Committee Date: Monday, March 22 2010
3:15 p.m.
Conference Room 229

Subject: **SCR160, Requesting Replacement of the State Capitol's Reflecting Ponds**

On behalf of Historic Hawai'i Foundation (HHF), I am writing in opposition to SCR 160, which requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources to approve and the Department of Accounting and General Services to plan and implement a proposal to replace the reflecting ponds surrounding the State Capitol with a garden of native plants.

The Hawai'i State Capitol is designated on both the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Its architectural significance derives in part from the symbolism of the building features, which reflects the cultural, social and natural histories of Hawai'i. As the only island state in the nation, Hawaii's geography is unique. The design of the State Capitol reflects that geography: the reflecting ponds stand for the Pacific Ocean; the two chambers show the strength of the volcanic origins of the islands; the columns symbolize palm trees; and the rotunda is open to the sky.

Any proposal to rehabilitate or restore the structure should first begin with an understanding of the character-defining features that contribute to its historic significance, which certainly includes the reflecting pools. Recommendations to repair, maintain or retrofit the building need to take care to avoid adverse effects on those features. The role of the State Historic Preservation Division is to ensure that the proper care is taken during planning and design, as well as implementation of the approved plan. SHPD's review of projects is based on preservation standards adopted by the Secretary of the Interior. The standards for rehabilitation and preservation of historic sites provide protection for the historic resources and should not be discarded lightly.

HHF recommends that the resolution be changed to direct SHPD and DAGS to develop a plan for the appropriate repair and maintenance of the waterproof membrane and control of algae. This would address the legislature's concern for the maintenance and costs, protect the historic integrity of the Capitol, and support the professional standards used by the preservation division.

Historic Hawai'i Foundation

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Historic Hawai'i Foundation was established in 1974 to encourage the preservation of historic buildings, sites and communities on all the islands of Hawai'i. As the statewide leader for historic preservation, HHF works to preserve Hawai'i's unique architectural and cultural heritage and believes that historic preservation is an important element in the present and future quality of life and economic viability of the state.

TESTIMONY
SCR160
(END)